

## **SOUTHERN UTAH FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION RESOURCE CENTER**

### **Accomplishments**

#### **Workshops**

Susan Snow reports that several well-attended and popular workshops were held. The first of these was the SBA, NEXX Level workshop on writing a successful business plan. Eight member businesses completed the course, which consisted of six sessions (four hours per session). This workshop was conducted in our local Small Business Development Center. We also held a series of one-on-one design courses with our own talented Karen Kessler (Marketing Director and accomplished artist). These working sessions were highly productive and resulted in visible improvements in the quality and basic design of woodcrafts that are currently in our store. Nine members were involved in the one-on-one design enhancement workshops and the average amount of time spent with each member was twenty hours.

#### **Resource computer**

The resource center is open five days a week to allow members to come in and use the computer, library materials, office equipment, and to receive individualized help with their small business needs. We have helped 23 members with individualized needs. These needs included everything from assistance with filling out forms to starting a new business, writing a letter to congress expressing concerns about the management of our nation's forests, applying for grant funds to expand a current business, and learning the basics of using a computer. The majority of members come in to use more than just one aspect of the resource center and many come on a regular basis. The computer, library, copy machine, and visits with SUFPA and Torrey Home and Garden staff are the most popular aspects of the Resource Center.

#### **Nationally recognized Resource Center**

It is anticipated that over time, as the Resource Center grows, the resource library will develop a nationally recognized reputation. Currently, the major effort, in addition to their web site, to have the Resource Center become nationally recognized is Susan's involvement in national activities at which she promotes the center as a resource to others. This includes her election to the Board of Directors of the National Network of Forest Practitioners and is actively involved with the Four Corners Sustainable Forests Partnership (Steering Committee Member), and Southwest Regional Team (tracking USDA, Forest Service Stewardship Contracting Pilot Programs). These are indicative of the regional and national prominence that SUFPA has achieved as a result of its work to promote community based forestry. Susan has addressed the Annual Meeting of State Foresters, attended Community Forestry Week in Washington, and participated in the Second Annual National Fire Plan Convention. This participation is indicative of the efforts of Susan and SUFPA to be regularly involved in the community forestry movement on both the regional and national level.

To become and remain a nationally recognized resource center, the center is building an industry resource library. The library currently contains fifty-two volumes focused on furniture and folk art design, stylebooks and other woodworking titles. New materials are added, as they are located. The library also receives numerous catalogs and journals relating to woodworking, finishing, hardware, and forestry. These materials are also shelved and made available for use by members. The library contains information on woodworking workshops (available from Snow College and Utah Community College), small grant opportunities (Utah Arts Council, Forest Service – Rural Community Assistance Grants, USDA grants, etc), and loan programs geared to small rural businesses (SBA, USDA, Four Corners Sustainable Forests Partnership Loan Program, etc). Other Small Business Administration programs designed to help local, small businesses such as those operated by SUFPA members have been collected. Members have access to a wider world of information available on the web and via e-mail with access through the computer.

All known web sites related to community forestry, sustainable forestry, and community based forest restoration are easily accessed by a favorites list. We also maintain a growing archive of recent and current literature on the previously mentioned themes. The SUFPA office houses numerous files on community-based forestry, sustainable forestry, forest policy and management, as well current and historical archives of timber sales offered on nearby National Forests. The center also provides access to regional and national organizations that share the SUFPA vision of promoting ecologically sound forest management while supporting local communities.